

Squatters make mint out of rent-free house

Marc Mullen reveals how a group of environmentalists has charged journalists as much as £450 to tour the exclusive mansion which housing association Circle Anglia is letting them live in



FACTFILE

Fitzjohn's Avenue squat – the cash

□ £8.77million – value of Fitzjohn's Avenue squat registered with the land Registry.

□ £1.1million – what the owners, Circle Anglia, say the five-storey house is worth after taking account of renovation work needed.

□ £5million – what a Hampstead estate agent says the house would fetch at auction.

□ £250-£450 – the amounts pledged by daily newspapers and TV stations to the squatters in exchange for tours of the house.

□ 10 – number of flats left empty in the house since December 2005.

□ 290,862 – the number of long-term empty homes in the UK.

□ 121,179 – the number of homeless households in the UK.



Above: Phoenix said cash from journalists paying to tour the squat (top) would go to environmental causes. Left and far left: squatters.

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